In case the Govt. Rehabilitation specialist/Orthopaedic Surgeon (not below the level of consultant) advises an item not included in the list of Govt. approved appliances, the permission in such cases is granted as under:

(i) For items costing below Rs. 2,000/-, the same can be purchased without any quotation.

(ii) For items costing above Rs. 2,000/-, prior permission from the Addl. Director of the concerned CGHS city is to be obtained.

(iii) Requests for new and expensive items are considered by the Govt. on a case-to-case basis.

(b) CGHS beneficiaries suffering from Cancer and advised artificial limb by the Govt. specialist are duly granted permission by the CGHS as per procedure indicated in (a) above.

(c) The specialist (in the relevant field) of Govt. hospitals throughout the country can advise artificial limb/appliance to the CGHS beneficiary.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected.

Printing of colour photographs of diseases on cigarette packets

1138. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for printing of colour photograhs of lung cancer victims, diseased organs and other tobacco related diseases on the cigarette packets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001, contains provisions to make rules for printing of prominent messages on tobacco products conveying the ill effects of tobacco.

The Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, which examined the Bill has recommended that the provisions for pictorial warnings be incorporated in the Bill. The recommendations have been examined and the said Bill, will be taken up for consideration in the Parliament.

Expenditure on Health

1139. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in Indian Express on the 8th January, 2003 that according to an expert, India's expenditure on health is low;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's comments thereon;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the expenditure on health; and

(d) the details regarding the health expenditure in the Health Policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Budgetary allocation for different sectors is decided keeping in view the availability of overall budgetary resources and sectoral priorities. The health expenditure in the country as percentage of GDP has been approximately 4.9% in the year, 2000 of which public health expenditure is 0.9% of GDP. The government has been making every effort to augment the resources for health sector by mobilising external assistance by various bilateral and multilateral agencies for supporting various National Health Programmes for control of major diseases. Health infrastructure in certain States is also being upgraded with World Bank assistance. The 10th Plan Outlay for Central health Sector has been fixed at Rs. 9253 crore compared to Rs. 5118 crores during the Ninth Plan. The National Health Policy, 2002 envisages increasing the public health expenditure from 0.9% to 2% of GDP by the year 2010. Further, it envisages increasing the Central Government's contribution from the existing 15% to 25% of the total public health spending by the year 2010. Also, it is proposed to increase State sector health spending from 5.5% to 7% and 8% of the budget by 2005 and 2010 respectively.